

THE DRAMA CIRCLE

Junior Youth Take the Stage!



Young participants discuss a scene

14 Young People graduate from new 'Drama Circle' course

Durham, NC (June 2006) A dynamic group of young people (ages 12 - 16) has just completed a pilot course offered by the Drama Circle, which combines drama training with character education.

The 60-hour course that began in Fall 2005 culminated, on June 10th, with the young 'drama circle' graduates performing three original plays before an enthusiastic and packed house at Durham's "Common Ground Theatre." The most frequently asked question after the performance by young and old alike: "When does the next course begin?"

Each lesson is organized around a principle inherent in a certain aspect of the art. Then the participants engage in drama exercises, which in turn reinforce the understanding of the principle. By the end of the course, the participants have gained skills to make them comfortable to write, stage and perform their own 10 minute pieces.

The goal is that, after taking this course, individuals will be inspired to incorporate drama at different levels of community life. The educational power of drama lies not only in its power to affect an audience—Drama has a profound and transformative influence on those who practice it.

The graduates of the 2005-2006 Drama Circle Course...

*Jamal Benjamin
Justine Benjamin
Jordan Estes
Gabriel Estes
Quddus George
Smon Ghofrani
Vanessa Ghofrani
Ashraf Hadden
Anika James
Joseph Kleinhenz
Carey Marr
Patrick McFarland
Allegra Milani
Ghazal Rahmani*



Course Overview

Part 1: Foundations (6 sessions)
Awareness of body, concentration of mind, susceptibility of spirit.
Culmination: Simple Presentations

Part 2: Acting (6 sessions)
Speech & silence, desire and seeking, interpreting & understanding text.
Culmination: Performing short scenes

Part 3: Playwriting (4-6 sessions)
The creative self & the analytical self, reciprocity, dramatic perspective, revision.
Culmination: Readings of original plays

Part 4: Collaboration (4-6 sessions)
Collaboration, Perseverance, Harmony and symmetry in staging and design, Prayerfulness
Culmination: collaborative performance of original plays